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COUNTRY Germany (Soviet Zone)

CONFIDENTIAL REPORT NO.

136

TOPIC Military Information from Rathenow

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EVALUATION PLACE OBTAINED

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DATE OF CONTENT

DATE OBTAINED

DATE PREPARED 22 August 1951

REFERENCES

PAGES 3 ENCLOSURES (NO. &amp; TYPE)

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SOURCE

1. On 24 July 1951, those two barracks buildings of Wald Kaserne I in Rathenow (N 53/Z 15) which front on the street were occupied to capacity. Gate guards wore red-bordered black epaulets. About 100 to 150 young soldiers were engaged in formation drill in the barracks yard. [redacted] each occupied by 12 to 15 student drivers, left the installation.

2. On 24 July, the Wald Kaserne II appeared to quarter 200 to 250 troops. Gate guards wore red-bordered black epaulets. About 100 soldiers were seen receiving basic training, while another 100 soldiers were addressed by an officer. Driving school [redacted] were observed.

3. On 26 July, Wald Kaserne III quartered about 200 troops. Gate guards wore red-bordered black epaulets. About 100 young soldiers sang while marching. The gun shed was empty. \*

4. Documents found at Wald Kaserne III on 16 July included:  
a. An envelope addressed to a soldier of [redacted] and postmarked 11 May 1951.  
b. A fragment of a letter by the supply officer of [redacted] asking for the emblem of the Administrative Academy of the Red Army from which the writer graduated in 1945. \*\*

5. Documents found at Wald Kaserne III on 26 July included:  
a. An envelope addressed to a soldier of [redacted] postmarked 12 July 1951, and mailed from the Moscow Oblast.  
b. An envelope addressed to a soldier of [redacted] postmarked 11 July 1951, examined by Censorship Office [redacted] and mailed by a soldier of [redacted] in Novorossisk Krasnodar Krai. \*

6. The former stables of the Ziethen Kaserne contained mostly offices and supply rooms. Gate guards wore red-bordered black epaulets. At about 8 a.m. on 26 July, 16 officers up to and including majors entered the installation. Only a little activity was noticed in the billeting area. [redacted]

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7. On 23 July, no sentries were seen at the repair shop on Ebertring. About 45 to 50 sedans were parked on the shop premises. [REDACTED] entered the installation.

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8. A train which arrived at the Rathenow-Nord railroad station from Altengrabow on 24 July consisted of 7 boxcars carrying about 30 soldiers each, 3 tank cars, and an undetermined number of flatcars carrying 42 [REDACTED].

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[REDACTED] No heavy weapons were observed on the train. Fifty soldiers went to the Infanterie Kaserne, and the remainder with their material moved to the Pionier Kaserne.

9. On 27 July, seven tractors, each carrying 4 soldiers and towing an artillery piece of 120-mm to 150-mm, returned to Rathenow from Altengrabow by road. A German barracks employee stated that the tractors and guns would return to Altengrabow with newly trained recruits on 2 August. The movement was simultaneously used as a driving test for the recruits. \*\*\*

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10. Documents found at the garbage dump of the Pionier Kaserne and the Kraftfahrer Kaserne on 9 July included:

- a. A fragment of an envelope addressed to a soldier of [REDACTED] examined by Censorship Office [REDACTED]  
b. An envelope addressed to a soldier of [REDACTED] postmarked 1 June 1951, and mailed by a soldier of [REDACTED] in Burnakino, Yaroslavl Oblast. \*\*

11. Documents found at the same garbage dump on 23 July included:  
a. An undated letter to a soldier by his parents who mentioned the address of one of their son's friends as being "Far East - [REDACTED]"  
b. An invitation card for an evening celebration on the occasion of Artillery Day in the post officers' house at 7 p.m. on 18 November 1950.  
c. A page from an industrial pamphlet with notes on the setting of a time fuze for an artillery shell. \*\*

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\* [REDACTED] Comment. The occupation strengths of the three Wald Kasernen as of 10 July 1951 were reported essentially higher by another source who obtained the figures from German kitchen personnel. See [REDACTED] The estimates given in the present report are believed to be too low.

\*\*\* [REDACTED] Comment. [REDACTED] is probably assigned to a signal unit or repair shop of the IV Arty Corps in Rathenow. [REDACTED] belong to artillery components of the 6th Arty Div in Rathenow. [REDACTED] is assigned to an unidentified unit in Novorossisk, North-Caucasus MD. [REDACTED] is assigned to the 25th RL Brig in Premnitz, which was previously confirmed until 27 July 1951. No six-digit [REDACTED] have been reported to date.

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[REDACTED] that two  
trains with troops and trucks of [REDACTED] left Altengrabow  
for Rathenow on 18 and 20 July 1951 respectively and that  
another train with troops and trucks of [REDACTED] left  
Rathenow toward Altengrabow on 21 July 1951.  
This incipient rotation of components of the 6th  
Arty Div between Rathenow and Altengrabow was probably continued  
by the movements described in the present report.

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